

Message Text

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ACTION SPM-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 487

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SPOP, UNWPC, PO

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE POPULATION POLICY

REFS: A) LISBON 2076; B) LISBON 3345

1. GOP ATTITUDES TOWARD POPULATION CONTROL/FAMILY PLANNING DESCRIBED REF A HAVE CHANGED. GOP AS YET HAS NO COHERENT POLICY IN THIS AREA BUT NOW RECOGNIZES "HUMAN RIGHT" OF FAMILIES TO DETERMINE NUMBER OF CHILDREN DESIRED.

2. WORKING-OUT OF MULTIFOLD ASPECTS POPULATION PLANNING IN PORTUGAL WILL BE PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT JOB. AT CORE OF PROBLEM, WHICH NO LONGER AFFECTED BY CONSERVATIVE POLITICAL OUTLOOK, LIE TWO MAJOR UNCERTAINTIES:

A) WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH MILLION PLUS EMIGRANTS WORKING IN WESTERN EUROPE, SHOULD EUROPEAN COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN?

B) WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN CASE OF WHITES "RETURNING" TO PORTUGAL FROM AFRICA? (CURRENT FLOW IS MORE THAN JUST A TRICKLE, BUT HAS NOT YET TURNED INTO STREAM. POTENTIAL THERE, HOWEVER, FOR FLOOD FROM MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA.)

3. OVERALL POPULATION PLANNING THEREFORE INVOLVES FACTORS SUCH AS EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING, FOOD SUPPLY, SCHOOLS, SOCIAL SERVICES, ETC TO GREATER DEGREE THAN ELSEWHERE

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IN EUROPE AND WILL REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE TIME TO

ELABORATE. IN MEANWHILE, PORTUGUESE FAMILIES WILL HAVE RIGHT TO ACCESS TO FAMILY PLANNING INFORMATION AND, VIA MEDICAL PRESCRIPTION, TO MEANS.

4. EMBASSY PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (REF B) THAT GOP WAS NOT PLANNING PARTICIPATE IN BUCHAREST POPULATION CONFERENCE. THIS INFO FURNISHED IN GOOD FAITH BY GOP SCIENTIFIC COORDINATOR WHO, AT TIME, WAS UNAWARE THAT PLANS TO PARTICIPATE HAS BEEN RESUMED. PORTUGUESE DELEGATION WHICH ATTENDED CONFERENCE FELT IT WAS USEFUL FOR TWO REASONS: AS FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AT GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL, IT DRAMATICALLY BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF OFFICIALS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES COMPLEXITIES AND SERIOUSNESS OF PROBLEM; INSOFAR AS PORTUGAL ITSELF CONCERNED, IT HAS GIVEN IMPETUS TO POPULATION PLANNING PROGRAM.

5. RESPONSIBLE GOP OFFICIALS WILL BE INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING SUBJECT WITH ANY US EXPERTS WHO VISIT COUNTRY. REQUEST DEPARTMENT KEEP US ADVISED OF TRAVEL PLANS ANY FIGURES IN POPULATION FIELD COMING TO EUROPE.
SCOTT

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